



The chatterbox

March - June 2015 Leisure Guide



"CLIP IT"

An Adventure-filled Fundraiser!

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Hamilton County Commissioners

Christine Altman
Steven Dillinger
Mark Heirbrandt

Hamilton County Council

Paul Ayres
Brad Beaver
Jim Belden
Meredith Carter
Amy Massillamany
Rick McKinney
Steve Schwartz

Hamilton County Park Board

Stephen Andrews
Dr. Judith Campbell
Jan DeJarnatt
Mark McCauley
Susan Peterson
Andrew (Terry) Prather
Larry Roudebush
Philip Shelby

Mission Statement

The Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department shall exist to serve the leisure and recreational needs of the residents and tourists of the county. We will strive to be the leader in providing well-maintained, high-quality passive parks and facilities, excellent programs and services, and the preservation of greenspace to enhance the quality of life in the county.

Park Board Meetings

The Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Board meetings are held on the third Monday of each month, except holidays. They are held at 7 p.m. in the Cool Creek Nature Center auditorium, located at 2000-1 East 151st Street, Carmel, IN 46033. The meetings are open to the public.

Park Hours

All parks operated by Hamilton County Parks and Recreation are open 365 days a year from dawn to dusk. Some sections of the park may be closed due to special events, shelter reservations or flooding. Please refer to *The Chatterbox* or call the administrative office.

On the cover:

The hues found in the wings of the Bronze Copper butterfly, a member of the Gossamer-winged Family, brilliantly mimic those found in its natural surroundings.

Cover photo by Dave Fox

Administrative Office • 317-770-4400

Mon. – Fri., 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Please call the numbers listed for holiday hours of park offices and facilities.

Director, Allen Patterson
allen.patterson@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Deputy Director, B. Christopher Stice
chris.stice@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Resource Development Specialist, Don Nicholls
don.nicholls@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Office Manager, Alesa Cox
alesa.cox@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Admin Technical Coordinator, Carrie Jones
carrie.jones@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Cool Creek Nature Center • 317-774-2500

Mon. – Sat., 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Sun., 1 – 5 p.m.

Superintendent of Natural Resources and Education,
Amanda Smith
amanda.smith@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Naturalist, Dan Popiela
dan.popiela@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Taylor Center of Natural History • 317-774-2574

Mon. – Sat., 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Sun., 1 – 5 p.m.

Regional Parks Operations Manager, Bruce Oldham
bruce.oldham@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Historical Resource Specialist, Christy Brocken
Christy.brocken@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

White River Campground • 317-770-4430

Season: Apr. 15 – Oct. 31

Office hours:

Mon. – Thurs., 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Fri. and Sat., 8:30 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Sun. 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Regional Parks Operations Manager, Bruce Oldham
bruce.oldham@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Coxhall Gardens • 317-774-2582

Dawn – Dusk

Coxhall Gardens Park Manager, Gary Knowlton
gary.knowlton@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Park Manager Assistant, Lori Hacker
lori.hacker@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com

For info on other parks visit:
www.hampa.org www.inpra.org



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Greetings, and welcome to the March-June 2015 edition of *The Chatterbox Leisure Guide*.

Wow! What a busy winter this has been. The old joke in the parks and recreation field is that everyone assumes you don't do anything all winter long... "What do you do all winter? Sit around eating Bon-Bons?" My canned response is, "If we aren't busy all winter, we will be behind as soon as spring hits." This has been a crazy busy winter (*not helped at all by major office repairs, made necessary due to frozen, then broken water pipes in our Admin Office*). The staff has been busy with current programs like the extremely popular Daddy Daughter Dance, as well as preparing for a host of programs and events that you will truly enjoy this spring and summer. Make sure to look through the pages of this guide for all of your favorites, and some new programs and activities as well. This year we will be making some very exciting announcements... so stay tuned to facebook, twitter, and your email for a lot of very cool opportunities heading your way.



Another big project we have been working on is the first annual fundraising gala for our Friends of Hamilton County Parks, Inc., park foundation. The title for this year's inaugural event is **CLIP IT! An Evening of Outdoor Adventures... A Black Tie Event Where Everyone will be in Jeans!** This event, taking place on Friday, March 20th at Ritz Charles in Carmel, will highlight some things we do well and some new innovative developments on the horizon. You will see our gala logo below. I invite you to visit the foundation's website at friendsofhamiltoncountyparks.org and click on CLIP IT, located on any of the pages. By doing so, you'll be taken to the event's special website. Sponsorships and tickets are still available as I am writing this. WISH TV 8's (and Hamilton County's own) Scott Sander will be our emcee, with local author and media personality Scott Watson presenting the keynote address. Indianapolis native, world famous musician and producer, Rodney Stepp will be providing the evening's musical entertainment. I urge you all to check it out. It promises to be a very memorable night. If that's not a great start to a new year, I just don't know what is!

See you in the parks!

Al Patterson

Allen W. Patterson, CPRP, CPSI

Director, Hamilton County
Department of Parks and Recreation



Solar Panels at the Cool Creek Nature Center Update

View the energy generated by our solar panels on the roof of the Cool Creek Nature Center. Visit www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com and click on the *Cool Creek Solar Panels* link!



Snapshot taken February 8, 2015. Data generated since September 2, 2010

Park Programs ccnc/ccp



Photo - courtesy Kim Clark

Visit the Cool Creek Nature Center!

There is ALWAYS something new to explore at the Cool Creek Nature Center! Last year over 40,000 people visited the Nature Center. Our exhibits, which are all designed and created by our staff, change seasonally. A rotating free daily craft, scavenger hunts, and games are available every day. Our Wildlife Viewing Area and Greenhouse are also open year round. While you are here, be sure to allow time for a nature hike and to stop at our popular playground! We hope you will make plans to visit us soon! For more information, please call us at 317-774-2500.

Hours: Monday - Saturday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
Sunday 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Cost: Free

PLEASE NOTE: Nature Center closed on: April 3 and 5; May 5 and 25

Spring Exhibit: Bird is the Word

Birds are all around us, yet few people realize the large diversity found in Indiana or know about the astonishing habits of these amazing feathered dynamos! Put a "spring" in your step as you "migrate" to the Cool Creek Nature Center to learn more about these creatures. Information about specific birds, like woodpeckers, will be featured as well as general bird-related facts about conservation, nesting, and habitats.

Dates: March 16 - June 7
(Please note when we are closed for holidays)

Summer Exhibit: Summer Sense-ations

We will be celebrating many of nature's most SENSE-ATIONAL things including hummingbirds, butterflies, lightning bugs, flowers, frogs, and other delightful creatures! Come inside, cool off, and enjoy exploring and learning about the amazing things that fill the summer sky, scent the summer air, and add musical fancy to this magical season!

Exhibit Opening: June 22



Nature Trunks on Loan at the Cool Creek Nature Center!

We have five trunks available for area educators to use as an additional resource for their classes! These kits would make a great addition to any classroom or program that focuses on Indiana wildlife. Educators including scout leaders, teachers, and home-school families are all eligible to borrow the trunks.

The trunks available are:

The Wildlife Trunk consists of a variety of native skulls / bones, shells, skins, mounts, track molds and cards.

The Tree-mendous Tree Trunk includes many books, field guides, lesson plans, activity ideas, movies, wood samples and posters.

The Fur File includes fifteen real mammal furs with corresponding fact cards, and additional lesson plans and resources for educators.

The Bird Trunk includes bird skulls, silhouettes, bird books, and other bird-related education materials.

The Go FishIN' Trunk contains fishing rods, reels, fishing tackle, games and related literature to teach others how to go fishing.

To check on the trunks availability for your upcoming programs, contact Holly Faust at 317-774-2500 or email holly.faust@hamiltoncounty.in.gov. There is no charge to borrow the trunks.

Spring Break Programs

at Cool Creek Nature Center

Every weekday during Spring Break (April 6 - 10) at 11:00 am

Ages: Best for school-aged children

Location: CCNC

Pre-registration: Not Required

 *Indicates Spring Break Programs*

Pajama-Rama

Put on your cutest pair of pajamas, grab your favorite teddy bear, pack up an old blanket, and join us for Pajama-Rama! Families looking for a fun program to enjoy with their toddlers and preschoolers will love the Music Educator from Moriah Music who will lead us in songs and stories about some of our favorite animals.

Dates: March 6, April 10, May 1, June 5

Time: 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Ages: Best for families with children ages 1 - 7

Cost: Free

Location: CCNC

Pre-registration: Preferred.

Register by calling 317-774-2500 or emailing cool.naturecenter@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Program with Silly Safaris

Silly Safaris will be visiting to take us on an entertaining trip. We will learn about some of the interesting spring animals in our area and around the world. Silly Safaris will share some of their amazing adaptations and silly characteristics!

Date: Monday, April 6

Time: 11:00 am

Ages: Best for school-aged children

Cost: Free

Location: CCNC

Indiana Wild...Animals in your Backyard

There is a lot more going on in our yards and neighborhoods than we realize! Many interesting critters share the same space! Come learn about our nature neighbors!

Date: Tuesday, April 7

Time: 11:00 am

Ages: Best for school-aged children

Cost: Free

Location: CCNC

Indiana Owls

Who-who is sharing our woods? Swoop in to find out as Mark Booth, Director of Take Flight Wildlife Education, brings several of his owls to share with the audience.

Date: Wednesday, April 8

Time: 11:00 am

Ages: Best for school-aged children

Cost: Free

Location: CCNC



Rainforest Animals

Learn about the animals of the world's rainforest with Snakehead Ed. He will be bringing several exotic, tropical animals to show to the crowd.

Date: Thursday, April 9

Time: 11:00 am

Ages: Best for school-aged children

Cost: Free

Location: CCNC

Animal Superpowers with Animalia

See the strange and amazing ways that animals have physically adapted to their environment to find food, protect themselves, hunt, and to attract a mate. After this program you are sure to know that superpowers do exist!

Date: Friday, April 10

Time: 11:00 am

Ages: Best for school-aged children

Cost: Free

Location: CCNC

Park Programs

Preschool Nature Kids

Bring the little ones and join us as we explore nature! We start our program by learning about a specific nature topic and then head outside to explore the woods and prairie at preschooler speed. Parents join in to encourage discovery alongside their child. Dress for the weather – we will try to go out every meeting! Give your children the love of nature.

Who-Whoo-Whoo Lives in Our Woods? Owls and Owl Pellets



Dates: Wednesday, March 11

Thursday, March 12

Time: 10:30 am

Ages: Best for preschoolers, ages 3 to 5

Cost: Free

Location: CCNC

Pre-registration: Preferred.

Register by calling 317-774-2500

or emailing

cool.naturecenter@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Hiding in Nature - Camouflaging ourselves!

Date: Tuesday, April 14

Wednesday, April 15

Time: 10:30 am

Ages: Best for preschoolers, ages 3 to 5

Cost: Free

Location: CCNC

Pre-registration: Preferred.

Register by calling 317-774-2500

or emailing cool.naturecenter@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Who Lived Here Long Ago? Special Trip to Strawtown Koteewi Park

Date: Thursday, May 14

Time: 11:00 am

Ages: Best for preschoolers, ages 3 to 5

Cost: Free

Location: TCNH

Pre-registration: Preferred.

Register by calling 317-774-2500

or emailing cool.naturecenter@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Homeschool Hikers

Plan a break from the books to learn about our great outdoors and get your kids out in nature. We will discuss a particular topic and then explore nature. This time, our program takes us to different parks! Kids that spend time in nature are happier, healthier and smarter!

Birds of Prey at Cool Creek - we will investigate owl pellets!

Date: Thursday, March 26

Time: 1:00 pm

Ages: Best for school-aged children

Cost: Free

Location: CCNC

Pre-registration: Preferred.

Register by calling 317-774-2500

or emailing cool.naturecenter@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

See the Nesting Great Blue Heron at Rookery Preserve

Date: Thursday, April 23

Time: 1:00 pm

Ages: Best for school-aged children

Cost: Free

Location: RP

Pre-registration: Preferred.

Register by calling

317-774-2500 or emailing

cool.naturecenter@hamiltoncounty.in.gov



Discover Our Prehistoric Civilization: Archaeology at Strawtown Koteewi Park

Date: Thursday, May 14

Time: 1:00 pm

Ages: Best for school-aged children

Cost: Free

Location: TCNH

Pre-registration: Preferred.

Register by calling 317-774-2500

or emailing cool.naturecenter@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Naturalist-led Tour at Coxhall Children's Garden

Take a tour of the Children's Garden located at Coxhall Gardens with a Naturalist and discover the inspiration behind this magical little spot. All sorts of ideas went into designing this children's area and our Naturalist will let you in on the story as we walk around and "play." This program will meet at the entrance of the Children's Garden.

Dates: Thursday, March 12

Thursday, April 16

Thursday, May 14

Thursday, June 18

Time: 11:00 am

Ages: Parents and their children

Cost: Free

Location: CHG

Pre-registration: Not Required



Storytime at Cool Creek Park

Spring is here and the animals are stirring at the nature center. Why not join us for a nature-inspired storytime?

Dates:

Tuesday, March 3

Tuesday, March 17

Tuesday, March 31

Time: 11:00 am

Ages: Preschoolers

Cost: Free

Location: CCNC

Pre-registration: Preferred.

Register by calling 317-774-2500

or emailing cool.naturecenter@hamiltoncounty.in.gov



Storytime at Strawtown Koteewi Park

Date: Thursday, March 19

Thursday, April 16

Thursday, May 21

Thursday, June 18

Time: 11:00 am

Ages: Preschoolers

Cost: Free

Location: TCNH

Pre-registration: Preferred. Register by calling 317-774-2500

or emailing cool.naturecenter@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

World Water Day 2015 - HomeSchool-focused Program

We use it every day! We cannot live without it. How does it get to our faucets? Where does it go when we are finished with it? Could we actually run low, or worse, run out? Dive in with us to celebrate our precious Indiana water resources and find out how it is connected with the entire world! Dress for the weather as we will be going outside, weather permitting.

Date: Thursday, April 16

Time: 1:00 pm

Ages: Best for homeschool-aged children

Cost: Free

Location: CCNC

Pre-registration: Required.

Register by calling 317-774-2500

or emailing

holly.faust@hamiltoncounty.in.gov



WATER FOR LIFE
2005-2015

A Walk in the Wild - HomeSchool Wildflower Hike

We're celebrating Earth Day by taking a walk in the woods! We'll be looking at the wildflowers as they wake and stretch their leafy arms out of the ground and blossom in the sunlight. Let's identify and discuss some fun facts about each species. Come see some pollinators in action! Some of these busy insects may even surprise you!

Date: Wednesday, April 22

Time: 2:00 pm

Ages: Best for homeschool-aged children

Location: CCNC

Pre-registration: Preferred. Register by calling 317- 774-2500

or emailing holly.faust@hamiltoncounty.in.gov



tcnh/skp Park Programs

Taylor Center of Natural History at Strawtown Koteewi Park

The Taylor Center of Natural History is open daily! Visitors are invited to discover the colorful local history that stretches thousands of years into the past. Artifacts recovered by professional archaeologists in previous excavations are on display in our exhibit room. Over eight miles of trails are open, so don't forget your hiking shoes and sense of adventure! Group tours or presentations can also be arranged by calling 317-774-2574.

Hours: Monday-Saturday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
Sunday 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

PLEASE NOTE: Taylor Center closed on: April 3 and 5; May 5 and 25.

Artifact Spotlight

The Taylor Center of Natural History is now highlighting a different artifact from our collection with each season. Be sure to stop in to see this exciting discovery.

Strawtown Enclosure - Native American Village Tours

Our interpretive staff will be conducting tours of the Strawtown Enclosure, a Native American village that was inhabited more than 700 years ago. During these tours we will discuss the Native Americans who built and used the enclosure and see some of the artifacts recovered by archaeologists. The tours will begin inside the Taylor Center of Natural History and include a short stroll to the village site. For more information, please contact us at 317-774-2574.

Dates: Saturdays at 11:00 am
Sundays at 2:00 pm

Note: Tours will not be offered on April 5



Strawtown Koteewi Park

**KOTEEWI
RANGE**

Sport & Target Archery Center

Koteewi Range Sport and Target Archery Center

Date: Year-round

Times: Saturday and Sunday - Range and archery sales and services available 10 am until 6 pm. Weekdays - Call 765-635-1432 to request range time or for archery sales or service. Check website for updated info and Spring/Summer hours at www.koteewiarchery.com.

Ages: All ages welcome

Cost: \$10 per hour range fee

\$15 for bow and five arrows per hour, including range fee

Discounted range passes and memberships are available.

Pre-registration: Not required, but call 765-635-1432 for group or club needs

Location: SKP (Essig Entrance - 22735 Essig Ave., Noblesville, IN 46060)

Gardening Fun-O-One Spring Workshop Series

Geared to the beginning gardener, our Spring Garden Series will explore the basics of planning and planting your vegetable garden.

We will meet the first Saturday of March, April, and May, covering garden design, seed starting, and companion planting.

Dates: Saturday, March 7 – Basics of garden planning

Saturday, April 4 – Seed starting

Saturday, May 2 – Transplanting and companion planting

Time: 1:00 pm

Ages: Best for adults or families with older children

Cost: Free

Location: TCNH

Pre-registration: Required.

Register by calling 317-774-2574

or emailing taylor.center@hamiltoncounty.in.gov



Three Sisters Kids Garden Club

The Three Sisters Kids Garden Club meets weekly during the summer to explore the wonderful world of Native American Gardening. Using only heirloom variety seeds with documented historical sources, kids help plant and care for our Three Sisters Educational Garden. We ask families that sign up to commit to coming most of the weeks. The kids will keep a garden journal and knowledge is built from week to week.

Dates: Thursdays, June 4, 11, 18, 25 and July 9, 16, 23, 30

Time: 10:30 am – 12:00 pm

Ages: 10 and up

Cost: Free

Location: TCNH

Pre-registration: Required.

Register by calling 317-774-2574

or emailing christy.brocken@hamiltoncounty.in.gov



Art in the Park, Paint Your Park

Are you a budding artist or an experienced painter? Whatever the level of your experience, grab your paintbrushes and join us for our Art in the Park, Paint Your Park Series. Participants will meet at the selected park with their painting supplies and after a short naturalist-led hike, artists will spend the afternoon painting. To build inspiration, a Naturalist will highlight some of the beautiful and unusual aspects of the park and will remain onsite for a brief time to answer questions.

Dates: Saturday, April 25 at Potter's Bridge Park

Saturday, May 30 at Geist Park

Saturday, June 27 at Strawtown Koteewi Park

Time: 10:30 am

Ages: Older Children and Adults

Cost: Free

Pre-registration: Required. Register by calling 317-774-2574 or emailing christy.brocken@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Native American Artist Workshop Series

We are honored to be able to offer these outstanding workshops taught by exemplary Native American artists. You may sign up for just one or you may sign up for the whole series. More information about these highly-skilled artists can be found on our website at myhamiltoncountyparks.com within the calendar section and included in the description on the day of their programs.**

Elm Bark Baskets★★

In this course students will learn about folded bark baskets, commonly known as Berry Baskets. The indigenous people of our woodland areas utilized different barks for baskets, from folded to woven. This course will teach participants how to fold a piece of bark into a functional basket. We will stitch the sides together with basswood bark, and use split willow saplings for the rims.

Date: Saturday, March 28

Time: 10:00 am

Ages: Older children and adults

Location: TCNH

Cost: \$30

Pre-registration: Required.

Register by calling 317-774 -2574 or emailing

christy.brocken@hamiltoncounty.in.gov



Quillworking Workshop★★

Quillworker, Bonita Bent Nelson is offering a hands-on workshop in the ancient Native American art of porcupine quill embroidery. In this workshop, participants will learn the history and techniques of sewing porcupine quills to brain-tanned leather to create beautiful designs. Students will make a neck bag that can be used to carry items or as a personal medicine pouch. The techniques taught will be simple enough for beginners but can also be modified for those who have some experience sewing quills to learn more advanced skills. All supplies will be provided for the class.

Dates: Saturday, June 27 at 10:00 am

Sunday, June 28 at 1:00 pm

Ages: Older children and adults

Cost: \$25

Location: TCNH

Pre-registration: Required. Register by

calling 317-774 -2574 or emailing

christy.brocken@hamiltoncuncnty.in.gov

Buckskin Beaded Pouch Class★★

The use of glass seed beads in the decorating of personal pouches has been important to Native Americans for centuries. Not only were native bags specially sized and shaped to hold an individual type of object, they were often decorated with designs and colors that held meaning to the person who owned the pouch. Students taking the class will be able to create their own pouch using deerskin and glass seed beads that will be applied in two different techniques: applique and edge beading. Please bring scissors, a small pair of needle nose pliers, and a small table lamp (if needed). All other materials for the class will be provided.

Date: Saturday, April 18

Time: 10:00 am

Ages: Older children and adults

Location: TCNH

Cost: \$20

Pre-registration: Required.

Register by calling 317-774 -2574 or emailing

christy.brocken@hamiltoncounty.in.gov



The Adena and Hopewell in Indiana

The Adena culture and the Hopewell tradition both flourished in what is now considered the Midwest. This presentation will be an overview of these cultures throughout the region with a more in-depth look at their time here in Indiana. Several key aspects of the Adena and Hopewell that will be discussed include the foodways of both groups, the different Hopewell traditions including the ones here in Indiana, and the Hopewell exchange system.

Date: Saturday, May 30

Time: 2:00 pm

Ages: Best for older children and adults

Location: TCNH

Cost: Free

Pre-registration: Preferred. Register by calling 317-774 -2574 or emailing taylor.center@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Throwback to the 1950s to Kick Off the Summer of 2015

Join us for an afternoon of fun, 1950s style! Get your hula-hoop ready and make sure your bubble gum blowing skills are top notch, then head on over to Strawtown Koteewi Park. This fun family program will include a hula-hooping competition and a bubble gum blowing competition. There will also be root beer floats and lots of other fun inspired by the great decade of the 1950s! We encourage people to dress in 1950s attire. Make Elvis proud!

Date: Saturday, June 6

Time: 1:00 pm

Ages: All

Cost: Free

Location: TCNH

Pre-registration: Preferred.

Register by calling 317-774 -2574

or emailing

taylor.center@hamiltoncounty.in.gov



The park staff will occasionally take pictures of participants at our parks, programs, and special events. Photos may be used in future publications or online for marketing purposes. If you do not want your picture taken, please inform the photographer.

White River Guard

Transport back to the year 1812 and spend the day with the Indiana Militia. White River Guard, Indiana's volunteer militia will demonstrate militia camp life during the War of 1812 on the (Indiana) Western Frontier of the United States. Young, future volunteers will be taught basic drills and the importance of the volunteer militia during the settlement of Indiana. Games and cooking will be demonstrated as they were practiced by the men to break the monotony between battles.

Date: Saturday, June 13

Time: 10:00 am

Ages: All

Cost: Free

Location: TCNH

Pre-registration: Not Required

Encounter with a Fur Trader*

Ever wanted to travel back in time? Come and meet a fur trader from the 1750's. Learn about his everyday life and adventures.

Date: Tuesday, April 7

Time: 1:00 pm

Ages: Best for school-aged children and adults

Cost: Free

Location: SKP

Pre-registration: Preferred. Register by calling 317-774-2574 or emailing steve.mattingly@hamiltoncounty.in.gov



Indiana 1816*

Take a trip back to 1816 and meet a resident of the newest state. Find out about Indiana as it becomes the 19th state.

Date: Thursday, April 9

Time: 1:00 pm

Ages: Best for school-aged children and adults

Cost: Free

Location: SKP

Pre-registration: Preferred. Register by calling 317-774-2574 or emailing steve.mattingly@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

*Indicates Spring Break Programs

Hikes

Beginning Bird Hikes

Birds are fascinating and watching them can be an awe-inspiring experience. Catching a glimpse of these gorgeous creatures however can be frustrating and learning how to identify all of them can be overwhelming! Join our Naturalist staff and other guest leaders (when available) Sunday and Wednesday mornings and we will learn together. This will be a great opportunity for bird-watchers of all levels. You may begin anytime during the season and come as often as you like. Pre-registration is not required. Don't forget your binoculars!

Cool Creek Park: These hikes meet in the north parking lot of Cool Creek Park; past the Nature Center.

Dates: March 1, 11, 15, 18, 25, 29;
April 8, 12, 15, 22, 26, 29;
May 10, 13, 20, 24, 27;
June 7, 10, 17, 21, 24

Time: 8:30 am

Cost: Free

Ages: Adults

Pre-registration: Not Required

Strawtown Koteewi Park: These hikes will meet at the Taylor Center of Natural History.

Dates: March 4, April 1, May 6, June 3

Time: 8:30 am

Cost: Free

Ages: Adults

Pre-registration: Not Required

American Woodcock walk

Unusual, weird, romantic, and unique are all words used to describe the American Woodcock. Come experience this rite of spring for yourself as male Woodcocks perform their aerial courtship displays for the females in the prairie at dusk! An indoor presentation will take place inside the Taylor Center for those interested in knowing more about the life-history of this bird. Those interested in seeing the aerial display should meet the group inside the Taylor Center and will be led by a Naturalist outside.

Date: Saturday, March 21 – Indoor program portion at 6:00 pm

Outdoor Program portion begins at 6:30 pm

Ages: All

Cost: Free

Location: TCNH

Pre-registration: Not Required

Spring Wildflower Walk

Walk with a Naturalist along the wooded trails to enjoy the beautiful blossoms in the park. Don't miss out as these enchanting spring ephemerals show off their beauty for a limited time. Discover their ecological significance and other attributes such as edibility or medicinal values that make our wildflowers wonderful. These walks begin inside the Nature Center.

Dates: Saturday, April 25

Saturday, May 16

Time: 11:00 am

Ages: Best for All Ages

Cost: Free

Location: CCNC

Pre-registration: Not Required

Arbor Day Tree Stroll

Celebrate Arbor Day as the trees' new leaves unfurl and their flowers bloom. Our Naturalist staff is eager to share information about these magnificent plants and their annual rebirth each spring. This hike will begin just inside the entrance of the historic Potter's Bridge.

Date: Saturday, April 25

Time: 11:30 am

Cost: Free

Location: PBP

Pre-registration: Not Required

Saturday Morning Spring Migration Bird Hikes

Catch a peek at some beautiful birds as they make their return this spring. The hikes are led by well-known birder, Keith Starling. Hurry, some birds will not stay around long. After the hike, stop by the Nature Center's Wildlife Viewing Area for coffee and doughnuts. Don't forget your binoculars! Spring migration bird hikes meet in the north parking lot of Cool Creek Park.

Dates: April 18 and 25; May 2, 16, 23, 30

Time: 8:00 am

Ages: Older children and adults

Cost: Free

Location: CCP

Pre-registration: Not Required

Audubon May Bird Count

Volunteer to help the HCPR and the Indiana Audubon Society as we count birds throughout our county. This annual count takes place on International Migratory Bird Day and the results are a valuable tool in tracking bird populations throughout the United States. Bird watchers of different skill levels will be paired together and assigned to various areas of the county. After the morning festivities, an optional lunch will be provided in the Cool Creek Nature Center.

Date: Saturday, May 9

Time: 8:00 am

Cost: Free

Location: County wide

Pre-registration: Required. Register by calling 317-774-2500 or emailing amanda.smith@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Rookery PreServe

Join a Naturalist at the Great Blue Heron rookery in Hamilton County. We will meet and stay at the Stoops Observation Deck and discuss details about the park. We will spend the majority of the time watching and talking about the Great Blue Herons, who should be busily courting and tending their nests. You are encouraged to bring binoculars, spotting scopes, and photography equipment. Some equipment will be available.

Dates:

Wednesday, March 11 at 1:00 pm

Friday, March 20 at 2:30 pm (First day of Spring)

Saturday, March 21 at 3:00 pm

Thursday, April 2 at 1:00 pm

Friday, April 10 at 11:00 am

Saturday, April 11 at 3:30 pm

Saturday, April 18 at 2:00 pm

Wednesday, April 22 at 4:00 pm (Earth Day)

Friday, May 1 at 2:30 pm

Saturday, May 2 at 3:30 pm

Wednesday, May 6 at 3:30 pm

Saturday, May 16 at 4:00 pm

Wednesday, May 20 at 4:00 pm

Thursday, June 11 at 11:00 am

Location: RP

Pre-registration: Preferred. Register by calling 317-774-2574 or emailing christy.brocken@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Programs are available upon request at the Rookery Preserve. Church groups, homeschoolers, nature clubs, scouts, American Heritage Girls, or any group can request a special program at the Rookery Preserve lead by a Naturalist! The best viewing times are March through May. If you'd like to schedule your program, please email amanda.smith@hamiltoncounty.in.gov or call 317-774-2500.



Volunteer Spotlight: Ed Rowland

Who feeds those birds, anyway? If you've ever enjoyed watching wild birds in Cool Creek Nature Center's Wildlife Viewing Area, you may have asked yourself this question. The answer is: *awesome volunteers!*

Ed Rowland is one of these valuable people. Since March 2013, he has faithfully shown up every Monday morning to fill the bird feeders at the Nature Center.

After retiring, Ed reflected on how blessed he was and wanted to give back to the community. "Volunteering keeps me young...and keeps me engaged with people," he said, adding that the staff at Cool Creek Nature Center "make it fun."

So if you see Ed in the Nature Center, please thank him! We at Hamilton County Parks and all our feathered friends are grateful for your kind service, Ed!



Be a Parks Volunteer!

Volunteering for the Hamilton Parks and Recreation Department can be a fun and rewarding experience!

Volunteer opportunities include general park up-keep, assisting with special events, helping with gardening, caring for the Nature Center's wildlife friends, greenhouse tending, landscaping, cleaning, socializing, educating and more.

Check out the programs and events in this issue that offer volunteer opportunities. Look for the volunteer symbol throughout *The Chatterbox!*



To volunteer, please call 317-774-2509 or visit us at myhamiltoncountyparks.com.

Park Programs ccnc/ccp

Invasive Removal

Are you ready to greet the spring season in a beautiful park setting? Come help us restore the ecological health of Cool Creek Park by removing invasive plants. This prevents them from crowding out native trees, shrubs and flowers in your park.

Each date, we will conquer plants which require cutting / spraying and/or plants that need to be pulled.

Dates:	Times:
March 31	1:00 – 4:00 pm
April 9	1:00 – 4:00 pm
April 25	1:00 – 4:00 pm
May 7	4:00 – 6:00 pm
May 16	1:00 – 4:00 pm
May 19	4:00 – 6:00 pm
May 30	9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Ages: 6 and up. Minors must have signed parental permission; those under 14 must have an adult present.

Cost: Free

Location: Cool Creek Park, specific location will be emailed 2-3 days in advance

Pre-registration: Required. Please register online at www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com, click on "Sign up for Parks Volunteer Opportunities" and click on "Search."

Questions? Call 317-774-2509 or email volunteer@hamiltoncounty.in.gov



Friends of Hamilton County Parks Youth Advisory Council

The Youth Advisory Council (YAC) is a group of driven teens yearning to make a difference while learning about county parks and government. Since its establishment, its members have been guided by the Friends of Hamilton County Parks (Foundation) in the ways of philanthropy. Council members have volunteered time as well as attended and assisted at park community events. The Youth Advisory Council is currently working toward securing grant funds that will be used in the creation of a bee habitat exhibit in Cool Creek Park's Nature Center. The entire team is excited to see how their hard work will pay off!

— Madeline Frost, Y.A.C. member

Interested in expanding your horizons and network?
Visit friendsofhamiltoncountyparks.org to learn more
about Friends of Hamilton County Parks Youth
Advisory Council!

Summer Nature Programs

Hey kids! Here is your chance to explore Cool Creek Park and have some summertime fun. These one hour programs will feature a craft, nature activity or game, and a performance by the camp staff. Each activity is related to the topic of the day.

Registration is required and begins on May 29. Registration can be done online through our camp registration provider. Go to our website and click on "Summer Camp Accounts" to login and register. We will need the name and age of each child, parent signature on disclaimer, and the date and times you would like to attend. If you know a friend is coming, you can request to be in the same group. Space is reserved on a first-come, first-served basis.

Monday, June 29 / Delightful Deer

Put on your antlers and get ready to run like a deer as we discover what it takes to live in a deer's habitat.

Tuesday, June 30 / Looking Under Leaves

This micro hunt will take us to the ground as we explore what wonderful life lives on the forest floor.

Wednesday, July 1 / Creek Stomp

Join our staff as we venture into the creek to discover cool critters in playful places.

Thursday, July 2 / Rabbit Romp

Rabbits are cute critters with the skills to survive. Join us as we hop, skip and jump away from predators.

Times:

10:00 – 11:00 am

12:00 – 1:00 pm

2:00 – 3:00 pm

Ages: 3 – 10

Cost: Free

Location: CCNC

Pre-registration: Required. Register online or by calling 317-774-2500 (Begins May 29)

Cool Creek Campfires



Join us around the Cool Creek campfire ring for songs, presentations, and marshmallows. Cindy Baney, music educator with Moriah Music, will start the evening off with music. Special speakers will then entertain guests each week with topics about snakes, birds, turtles, and more. Hang out with your family and friends during these special Wednesday evenings. Don't forget to bring your lawn chairs or blankets.

Dates: June 3, 10, 17, 24; July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Time: 7:00 pm

Ages: All

Cost: Free

Backyard Adventure with ANIMALIA / June 3

Learn about the wild animals in your own back yard! Find out what you can do to help! Explore animal artifacts and meet five native species such as a hawk, owl, crow, skunk, raccoon, opossum, snake, or lizard.



Amazing World of Animals / June 10

Animals from all over the world will be at our campfire ring. Larry Battson, wildlife educator and handler, will talk to us about animal lives, conservation, and more.

Birds of Prey / June 17

Take Flight Wildlife Education's Mark Booth will be bringing several birds of prey to share with the audience. Hawks, owls, and kestrels are just a few of the amazing birds that prey on small animals and examples of what Booth will have for the audience!

Snakes with Ed - THE BIG ONES / June 24

Ed will be bringing lots of snakes to show the audience. He will dispel many of the myths people have about these fascinating creatures.

All-American Animals / July 1

Celebrate our country's birthday early with Coyote Chris of Silly Safaris. Animals that get us excited about our independence will be featured!

Nocturnal Animals / July 8

Indiana WILD will be joining us for a program all about animals of the night! These highly adaptive nocturnal creatures are as interesting as they are unusual!

Baby! It's wild Outside / July 15

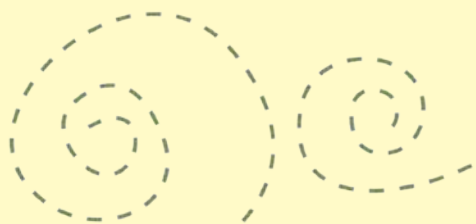
Utopia Wildlife Rehabilitators will talk with us about the do's and don'ts of wildlife that we might encounter in our communities. Some of their own rehabilitated animals will be on hand to help us understand when our help is needed and when it is actually harmful for wildlife and us!

REALLY Dangerous Animals / July 22

Amazon John with Silly Safaris is back with some REALLY DANGEROUS ANIMALS! Be sure to make it to this exhilarating show.

Surviving Summer with ANIMALIA / July 29

In the heat of the summer, survival can be challenging for many animals as they deal with difficult conditions such as increased temperatures and protected resources such as water and territory. Find out how animals stay cool and see if they have what it takes to be a survivor.



Indiana Bluebird Society's Annual Meeting

The Indiana Bluebird Society will be holding its annual spring conference at the Cool Creek Nature Center. This free conference will feature guest speakers and a roundtable discussion concerning bluebirds. Lunch will be on your own, or bring a dish to share! Anyone who is interested in the preservation of bluebirds and would like to learn more are welcome. Non-members are welcome. If you would like more information, please check the website Indianabluebirdsociety.org or call the Nature Center at 317-774-2500.

Date: Saturday, March 28

Time: 9:00 am- 3:00 pm

Ages: Adults

Cost: Free

Location: CCNC

Pre-registration: Not Required



Day Camps

Looking for a fun and energetic camp for your children to attend this summer? The Cool Creek Nature Center is offering another summer camp series this year. Registration begins March 14th at 10am. Children must be of the appropriate age of the desired camp by September 1st. Please refer to the camp registration details listed online at myhamiltoncounty.in.gov or call the Cool Creek Nature Center with questions at 317-774-2500.

Explorer Safari - Children ages 6 to 7

Session 1 / June 8-12

9:30 am - 12:00 pm

Cost: \$60.00

Session 2 / June 8-12

1:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Cost: \$60.00

Ranger Adventure - Children ages 8 to 10

Session 1 / June 15 - 19

10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Cost: \$70.00

Session 2 / July 6 - 10

10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Cost: \$70.00

Session 3 / July 20 - 24

10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Cost: \$70.00



Junior Outdoor Skills - Children ages 11 to 13

Session 1 / June 22 - 26

10:00 am - 3:00 pm (Monday-Wednesday)

Thursday 10:00 am - all night/ Friday pickup at 10:00 am

Cost \$80.00

Session 2 / July 13 - 17

10:00 am - 3:00 pm (Monday-Wednesday)

Thursday 10:00 am - all night/ Friday pickup at 10:00 am

Cost \$80.00

Session 3 / July 27 - 31

10:00 am - 3:00 pm (Monday-Wednesday)

Thursday 10:00 am - all night/ Friday pickup at 10:00 am

Cost \$80.00



Camp Registration Day

Date: Saturday, March 14

Time: Registration begins at 10:00 am

Location: CCNC or online



All information provided here can also be found at www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com.

If you have any questions about our registration process, please feel free to contact our Camp Coordinator, Dan Popiela at dan.popiela@hamiltoncounty.in.gov or by calling 317-774-2500.

GENERAL REGISTRATION INFORMATION

- Parents can only sign their child up for one session of the age appropriate camp, must be of the appropriate age of the desired camp by September 1, and only permitted to attend the camp for their designated age group.
- Campers are only permitted to attend the camp for their designated age group.
- The Disclaimer, Camper Profile, and Medical Form are required for each camper and will be available to fill out after each camper is registered.
- A limited number of spaces are available and registration for each camp is on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Registration cannot take place until 10 am on registration day.
- All online forms must be completed by the parent/legal guardian of the child.



Camp Accounts (for all types of registration):

- At any time, parents can access our website www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com and set up or update their account details.
 - Click on the "Summer Camp Account" tab.
- It is not necessary to have an account setup prior to registration day. Having an account setup with updated details regarding your campers and contact information will expedite the registration process for your family.
- If you already have an account, please log in and review your information.
 - Be sure that each child in your family you wish to be in camp is on your account.
- A new account will involve setting up an account including creating a user name and password and filling out parent and camper(s) information.
- If you attended camp in the past, but you don't have an account, please contact the Cool Creek Nature Center at 317-774-2500.



The Cool Creek Nature Center is anticipating another great year of camp! We are once again offering our families the option of registering online. Our intention is to provide a more convenient and efficient experience for parents and staff. We anticipate that this process will be as trouble free as possible, but we ask that our camp families be understanding and patient. In-person registration is still an option for our camp parents without internet access or for those that simply prefer this method.



Additional Registration in-person Info:

- An online account should be made before the day of registration.
 - If this is not possible, then registration packets can be made available at the Nature Center by request.
- Registration forms must be completed by the parent/legal guardian of the child.
- Payment for the camp should be made at the time of registration if in person.
- HCPR will allow relatives or family friends to register children as long as the parent/legal guardian of the child has completed the registration form.
 - A strict limit of four additional children per registering family will be applied.



How to Register Online:

- Set up an account before registration day and be sure that each child in your family you wish to be in camp is on your account. **(Users will be unable to select a camp until the actual registration time on March 14 at 10 am.)**
- On Saturday, March 14 at or any time after 10 am log on to your account:
 - Select the Camper you wish to register.
 - Click on "Add New Session" and select the desired camp for that camper.
 - Once clicking "Next" parents will need to review all parent and emergency contact info. Any missing required info will be highlighted and need to be filled in before continuing to the next screen, otherwise continue clicking "Next."
 - The final screen will allow parents to select another camper or finish registration.
- If registering another camper, select the camper's name, then click "New Registration."
- If you are not registering anymore campers, click "Make Payment" to be instructed on how to make a payment.
- A space is reserved in camp as soon as the camp is selected for the camper and the "Next" button is clicked.
- If a camp is full you'll be asked if you want to be put on a wait list. You can register for a different week of camp and still be on the wait list.
- **Parents will need to go back and fill out or update required forms including the Camper Profile, medical form, and other important forms. These forms must be filled out prior to making a payment.**
 - A camper's spot will be held, but not completely registered unless all required forms are completed online and payment is received.
- An automatic confirmation email acknowledging your spot in camp will be emailed to you after midnight. **Your child's spot in camp is NOT GUARANTEED until payment is received. We currently are unable to process payments online. (See payment section below.)**
- All information must be completed by the parent or legal guardian.

Payment

- In order to complete the registration process, camp fees must be received within FOUR days from the day of registration. **If payment is not received within this timeframe, you forfeit your spot in camp and it will go to the next available patron.**
 - Any resignation made after April 31 must pay on the date registered.
- Camp fees can be paid in person with cash, check, or credit card or with check by mail.
 - Checks can be made payable to HCPR and must include the Driver's License Number or Social Security of the check holder.
 - Credit card payments may be done in person (after 1pm on March 14) and will include an additional processing fee of \$1.00 plus 2% of the transaction amount.
 - Camp fees can be paid in person at the Cool Creek Nature Center during office hours or sent through the mail.
 - Payment address: 2000-1 E. 151st St., Carmel, IN 46033
 - 317-774-2500
 - Hours of Operation: Mon. - Sat. 10am - 5pm / Sun. 1 - 5pm
 - When paying by mail, please include the full name of the camper(s) and the camp they are registered for on the check or a separate piece of paper.
- Payment can be brought in by relatives or family friends, as long as the online forms were completed by the parent/legal guardian.
- Once payment is received, a confirmation email will be sent to the parent after midnight of the day it's processed. Please note, payment might not be processed the day it is received.

Cancellations:

Unfortunately, **NO REFUNDS** will be made available after a child is registered. If a child is unable to attend camp for any reason, a credit may be made available towards the next year's camp in 2016. A cancellation form must be completed and approved by the Camp Coordinator in order to receive any credits. This credit may only be applied to a child within the same family at the same address. If the credit is not applied to camp in 2016 then the credit is forfeited. Camp availability is on a first-come, first-served basis. A credit towards next year's camp is not a guarantee that a spot will be available for that child. Any available opening will be made to the next available person on the waiting list, as determined by the HCPR staff. Cancellation forms are available at Cool Creek Nature Center. Any concerns towards the cancellation policy may be addressed to the HCPR's Department Director, Al Patterson at the Hamilton County Administration Office by phone at 317-770-4400.



Select Fridays at 7pm

Gates open at 6pm

Adults - \$5

12 & Under - Free

Cool Creek Park 2000 East 151st Street, Carmel/Westfield



June 12
Polkaboy
polkaboy.com

June 19
Zanna-Doo!
zannadoo.com

June 26
Cook and Belle
cookandbelle.com

July 10
The Flying Toasters
theflyingtoasters.com

July 17
Toy Factory
toyfactorylive.com



Discount season passes!
Call 770-4400
for details.



	showers	beach	boat dock	fishing	canoe launch	music pavilion	picnic tables	picnic shelters	restrooms	playground	disc golf	soccer field	baseball / softball	basketball court	volleyball	bicycling	greenspace	nature trail	paved trail	equestrian trail	camping	wetland / prairie	
1. Administration Office 15513 S. Union Street, Carmel																							(317) 770-4400
2. Bray Family Homestead Park (BFHP) 4528 Sheridan Ave, Noblesville																	●	●					(317) 770-4400
3. Cool Creek Park (CCP)/(CCNC) 2000 E. 151 st Street, Carmel					●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●		(317) 774-2500
4. Coxhall Gardens (CHG) 116th Street & Towne Road, Carmel			●		●			●	●						●	●	●	●			●		(317) 774-2582
5. Geist Park (GP) 10979 Florida Road, Fortville			●	●		●	●	●	●							●	●				●		(317) 770-4400
6. Lafayette Trace Park (LTP) 15796 E. Strawtown Ave, Noblesville			●	●												●							(317) 770-4400
7. Morse Park & Beach (MPB) 19777 Morse Park Lane, Noblesville	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●		●		●	●	●	●						(317) 770-4400
8. Potter's Bridge Park (PBP) 19401 N. Allisonville Road, Noblesville			●	●		●	●	●	●					●	●	●	●						(317) 770-4400
9. River Road Park (RRP) 12575 River Road, Carmel			●	●				●	●					●	●	●	●				●		(317) 770-4400
10. Riverwood Canoe Landing (RCL) 20814 Riverwood Ave, Noblesville			●	●																			(317) 770-4400
11. Rookery Preserve (RP) 25440 Scherer Ave, Arcadia																●							(317) 770-4400
12. Strawtown Koteewi Park (SKP)/(TCNH) 12308 Strawtown Ave, Noblesville			●	●										●	●	●	●		●		●		(317) 774-2574
13. White River Campground (WRCG) 11299 E. 234 th Street, Cicero	●		●	●		●	●	●	●				●	●	●						●		(317) 770-4430

Coxhall Mansion & MuSeum Tours

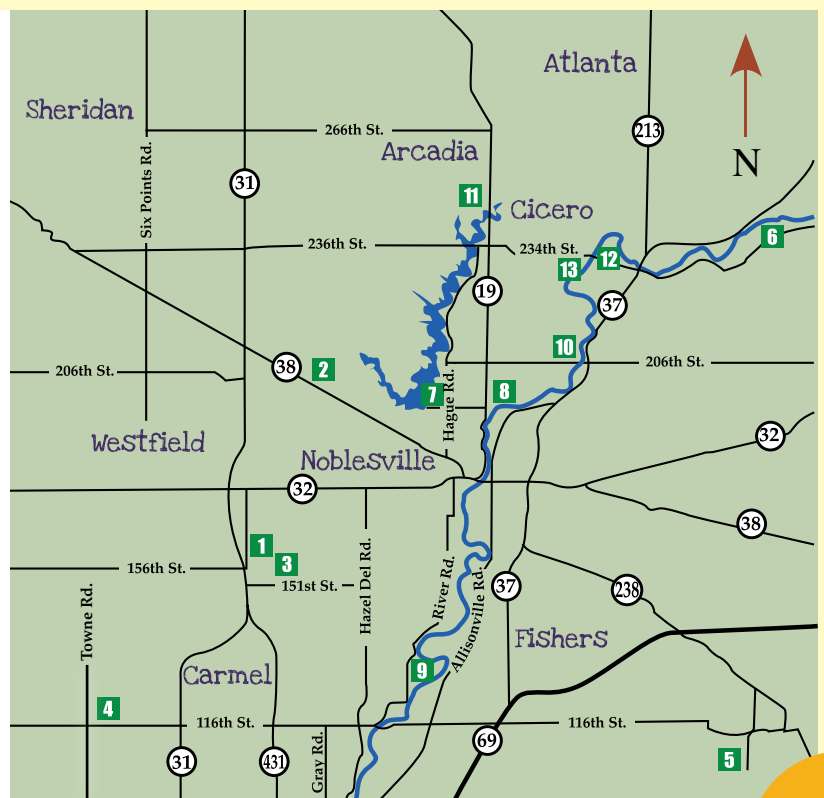
Hamilton County Parks is now offering tours of the newly renovated Coxhall Mansion and Museum, located on the stately grounds of Coxhall Gardens. The tours cover the history of the mansion, the grounds and the Cox family, as well as others that played a role in the creation of one of Hamilton County's most prestigious residences. Tours are free, but registration is required. Please call 317-770-4400 for details or if special accommodations are needed.

Dates: Thursday, March 5, 10 am
Tuesday, March 24, 5 pm
Wednesday, April 8, 10 am
Thursday, April 23, 5 pm
Tuesday, May 12, 10 am
Wednesday, May 27, 5 pm
Wednesday, June 17, 10 am
Tuesday, June 30, 5 pm

Ages: All ages are welcome, but children must be accompanied by an adult.

Cost: Free

Pre-registration: Required. Please call 317-770-4400.





White River Campground

Operating Dates: April 15 - October 31

Location: 11299 East 234th Street, Cicero, IN 46034

Amenities:

- 100 modern campsites
- 7 primitive campsites
- water, electric and sewer hook-ups
- camp store, includes bait and tackle
- recreation room
- restrooms/shower facility
- laundry facility
- playground
- picnic shelter
- White River access
- WiFi

Reservations are accepted 365 days in advance. Please call 317-770-4430 to make your reservation... today!

CAMPSITE / FACILITY	DAILY		WEEKLY	
	Hamilton County	Out of County	Hamilton County	Out of County
Full Hook-up	\$25	\$30	\$130	\$150
Electric and Water	\$20	\$25	\$120	\$130
Primitive Site	\$15	\$20	\$100	\$120
Day Visitor	FREE	FREE	/	/
Recreation Room Rental	\$60	\$80	/	/
Shelter House Rental	\$60	\$80	/	/
Boat Launch	\$3	\$5	/	/
Dump Station	\$5	\$8	/	/

2015 Morse Park Summer Triathlon

The annual Morse Park Summer Triathlon will take place on Saturday, June 27, 2015. The popular event consists of a 600-meter swim, 15-mile bike and a 3-mile run. Also offered is a Duathlon for those not wishing to swim, that consists of a 2-mile run, 15-mile bike and 3-mile run. Relay teams are welcome.

Date: Saturday, June 27

Time: 8:00 am

Location: MPB

19777 Morse Park Lane, Noblesville IN 46060

Registration and Information:

tuxbro.com or call 317-733-3300



Family Fun Times!

WHITE RIVER CAMPGROUND 2015

Throughout the 2015 season, White River Campground will offer quality entertainment and activities that are designed to add to the enjoyment of the camping experience for the entire family!

For specific details regarding the following campground events and programming, please call 317-770-4430.

April 15 // Campground Opens

April 26 // Tree Giveaway

May 9 // Family Fun Day Activities

May 23 // Memorial Weekend Band and Kids Activities

June 27 // Kid's Day Fishing Tournament

July 4 // July 4th Weekend Band and Kids Activities

July 18 // Magic Show, Crafts, and Nature Tour

Aug 8 // Family Fun Day Activities

Sept 5 // Labor Day Weekend Band and Kids Activities

Sept 19 // Family Fun Day Activities

Oct 10 // Halloween Weekend

Oct 17 // Year-End Pitch-In Dinner

...and MORE!

NOW OFFERING WIFI!

White River Campground is surrounded by other nearby county parks known for their unique offerings and amenities, as well. Adjacent Strawtown Koteewi Park (SKP), featuring the Taylor Center of Natural History (TCNH), and Potter's Bridge Park (PBP), where the historic Potter's Covered Bridge is located, offer added opportunities to expand your getaway options, at no additional cost! Locations, events and programming provided at these and other county parks can be found throughout this Chatterbox Leisure Guide.

Osprey Pointe Pavilion

Planning a shower, wedding reception, or any other special event? Our indoor rental facility at Morse Park and Beach offers a lodge-like setting and is available for private functions. Osprey Pointe is located on the banks of Morse Reservoir with a scenic view. The facility's seating capacity is 101 people and features a kitchenette and restrooms.

Facility Rental Rate:	\$160.50 for 4 hours
Non-resident Rate:	\$240.75 for 4 hours
Additional Hours:	\$42.80 per hour
Damage Deposit:	\$100
Alcohol Deposit:	\$400

Rental Rates include an on-site security guard and use of all tables and chairs.



Coxhall Gardens Centerpiece and Cripe Pavilion

Looking for a beautiful and serene location to hold your upcoming wedding and reception? The Coxhall Gardens Centerpiece and Cripe Pavilion are now ready to rent for weddings, wedding receptions, and any other special event you may have on your calendar. Rental is available from April through October.

For more information and to rent this facility, please call Ritz Charles at 317-846-9158 or visit ritzcharles.com

Cool Creek Park	Shelter Size	County Resident	Non-County Resident
Shelters A,B,C,D	20' x 30'	\$50 ^{+tax}	\$80 ^{+tax}

- Grill located at each shelter.
- Shelters hold approximately 50 people.

Geist Park	Shelter Size	County Resident	Non-County Resident
Shelter	20' x 30'	\$50 ^{+tax}	\$80 ^{+tax}

- Grill located at each shelter.
- Shelters hold approximately 50 people.

Morse Park and Beach	Shelter Size	County Resident	Non-County Resident
Shelters A,C,D	20' x 30'	\$50 ^{+tax}	\$80 ^{+tax}
Shelter B	30' x 40'	\$100 ^{+tax}	\$140 ^{+tax}

- Grill located at each shelter
- Shelters A,C,D hold approx. 50 people.
- Shelter B holds approx. 100 people.



Park Shelters

Looking for a place to have a picnic and enjoy your summer? Our affordable picnic shelters are a perfect place to have a get-together! Shelter rental is available from May 1st until September 30th.

- Shelter rentals are for all-day use.
- No refunds
- Cash, check, money order, VISA or Mastercard only

Please call 317-770-4400 for rental info.

Calendar 2015

March

- Su 1** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP
b. Enclosure Tour – 2pm – TCNH
- Tu 3** Storytime – 11am – CCNC
- W 4** Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – SKP
- F 6** Pajama Rama – 7pm – CCNC
- Sa 7** a. Enclosure Tour – 11am – TCNH
b. Gardening Fun-O-One – 1pm – TCNH
- Su 8** Enclosure Tour – 2pm – TCNH
- W 11** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP
b. Preschool Nature Kids – 10:30am – CCNC
c. Rookery Preserve – 1pm – RP
- Th 12** a. Preschool Nature Kids – 10:30am – CCNC
b. Coxhall Children's Garden Tour – 11am – CHG
- Sa 14** a. Camp Registration – 10am – CCNC
b. Enclosure Tour – 11am – TCNH
- Su 15** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP
b. Enclosure Tour – 2pm – TCNH
- M 16** Spring Exhibit Opens – 10am – CCNC
- Tu 17** Storytime – 11am – CCNC
- W 18** Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP
- Th 19** Storytime – 11am – TCNH
- F 20** Rookery Preserve – 1pm – RP
- Sa 21** a. Enclosure Tour – 11am – TCNH
b. American Woodcock Walk – 6pm – TCNH
c. Rookery Preserve – 3pm – RP
- Su 22** Enclosure Tour – 2pm – TCNH
- W 25** Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP
- Th 26** Homeschool Hikers – 1pm – CCNC
- Sa 28** a. Indiana Bluebird Society – 9am – CCNC
b. Elm Bark Baskets – 10am – TCNH
c. Enclosure Tour – 11am – TCNH
- Su 29** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP
b. Enclosure Tour – 2pm – TCNH
- Tu 31** a. Storytime – 11am – CCNC
b. Invasive Removal – 1pm – CCP

KEY

Su – Sunday

M – Monday

Tu – Tuesday

W – Wednesday

Th – Thursday

F – Friday

Sa – Saturday

Bray Family Homestead Park (BFHP)
Cool Creek Nature Center (CCNC)
Cool Creek Park (CCP)
Coxhall Gardens (CHG)
Geist Park (GP)
Lafayette Trace Park (LTP)
Morse Park & Beach (MPB)
Potter's Bridge Park (PBP)
River Road Park (RRP)
Riverwood Canoe Landing (RCL)
Rookery Preserve (RP)
Strawtown Koteewi Park (SKP)
Taylor Center of Natural History (TCNH)
White River Campground (WRCG)

April

- W 1** Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – SKP
- Th 2** Rookery Preserve – 1pm – RP
- F 3** Facilities Closed
- Sa 4** a. Enclosure Tour – 11am – TCNH
b. Gardening Fun-O-One – 1pm – TCNH
- Su 5** Facilities Closed
- M 6** Silly Safaris Program – 11am – CCNC
- Tu 7** a. Indiana Wild Program – 11am – CCNC
b. Encounter with a Fur Trader – 1pm – SKP
- W 8** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP
b. Indiana Owls Program – 11am – CCNC
- Th 9** a. Rainforest Animals – 11am – CCNC
b. Invasive Removal – 1pm – CCP
c. Indiana 1816 – 1pm – SKP
- F 10** a. Animalia Program – 11am – CCNC
b. Rookery Preserve – 11am – RP
c. Pajama Rama – 7pm – CCNC
- Sa 11** a. Enclosure Tour – 11am – TCNH
b. Rookery Preserve – 3:30pm – RP
- Su 12** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP
b. Enclosure Tour – 2pm – TCNH
- Tu 14** Preschool Nature Kids – 10:30am – CCNC
- W 15** a. White River Campground Opens – WRCG
b. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP
c. Preschool Nature Kids – 10:30am – CCNC
- Th 16** a. Storytime – 11am – TCNH
b. Coxhall Children's Garden Tour – 11am – CHG
c. World Water Day Homeschool Program – 1pm – CCNC
- Sa 18** a. Migratory Bird Hike – 8am – CCP
b. Buckskin Beaded Pouch Class – 10am – TCNH
c. Enclosure Tour – 11am – TCNH
d. Rookery Preserve – 2pm – RP
- Su 19** Enclosure Tour – 2pm – TCNH
- W 22** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP
b. Homeschool Wildflower Hike – 2pm – CCNC
c. Rookery Preserve – 4pm – RP
- Th 23** Homeschool Hikers – 1pm – RP

- Sa **25** a. Arbor Day Tree Giveaway – WRCG
b. Migratory Bird Hike – 8am – CCP
c. Art in the Park – 10:30am – PBP
d. Enclosure Tour – 11am – TCNH
e. Spring Wildflower Walk – 11am – CCNC
f. Arbor Day Tree Stroll – 11:30pm – PBP
g. Invasive Removal – 1pm – CCP
- Su **26** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP
b. Enclosure Tour – 2pm – TCNH
c. Tree Giveaway – WRC
- w **29** Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP

May

- F **1** a. Rookery Preserve – 2:30pm – RP
b. Pajama Rama – 7pm – CCNC
- Sa **2** a. Migratory Bird Hike – 8am – CCP
b. Enclosure Tour – 11am – TCNH
c. Gardening Fun-O-One – 1pm – TCNH
d. Rookery Preserve – 3:30pm – RP
- Su **3** Enclosure Tour – 2pm – TCNH
- M **4** Morse Beach Softball Begins – MPB
- Tu **5** Election Day - Facilities Closed
- w **6** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – SKP
b. Rookery Preserve – 3:30pm – RP
- Th **7** Invasive Removal – 4pm – CCP
- Sa **9** a. Family Fun Day – WRCG
b. May Bird Count – 8am – County wide
c. Enclosure Tour – 11am – TCNH
- Su **10** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP
b. Enclosure Tour – 2pm – TCNH
- w **13** Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP
- Th **14** a. Preschool Nature Kids – 10:30am – TCNH
b. Coxhall Children's Garden Tour – 11am – CHG
c. Homeschool Hikers – 1pm – TCNH
- Sa **16** a. Migratory Bird Hike – 8am – CCP
b. Enclosure Tour – 11am – TCNH
c. Spring Wildflower Walk – 11am – CCNC
d. Invasive Removal – 1pm – CCP
e. Rookery Preserve – 4pm – RP
- Su **17** Enclosure Tour – 2pm – TCNH
- Tu **19** Invasive Removal – 4pm – CCP
- w **20** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP
b. Rookery Preserve – 4pm – RP

- Th **21** Storytime – 11am – TCNH
- Sa **23** a. Music and Kids Activities - WRCG
b. Migratory Bird Hike – 8am – CCP
c. Enclosure Tour – 11am – TCNH
- Su **24** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP
b. Enclosure Tour – 2pm – TCNH
- M **25** Memorial Day – Facilities Closed
- w **27** Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP
- Sa **30** a. Migratory Bird Hike – 8am – CCP
b. Invasive Removal – 9am – CCP
c. Art in the Park – 10:30am – GP
d. Enclosure Tour – 11am – TCNH
e. The Adena and Hopewell in Indiana – 2pm – TCNH
- Su **31** Enclosure Tour – 2pm – TCNH

June

- w **3** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – SKP
b. Campfire – 7pm – CCP
- Th **4** 3 Sisters Kids Garden Club – 10:30am – TCNH
- F **5** Pajama Rama – 7pm – CCNC
- Sa **6** a. Enclosure Tour – 11am – TCNH
b. Throwback to the 1950's – 1pm – TCNH
- Su **7** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP
b. Enclosure Tour – 2pm – TCNH
- w **10** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP
b. Campfire – 7pm – CCP
- Th **11** a. 3 Sisters Kids Garden Club – 10:30am – TCNH
b. Rookery Preserve – 11:00am – RP
- F **12** Cool Creek Concert – Polkaboy – 7pm – CCP
- Sa **13** a. White River Guard – 10am – TCNH
b. Enclosure Tour – 11am – TCNH
- Su **14** Enclosure Tour – 11am – TCNH
- w **17** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP
b. Campfire – 7pm – CCP
- Th **18** a. 3 Sisters Kids Garden Club – 10:30am – TCNH
b. Coxhall Children's Garden Tour – 11am – CHG
c. Storytime – 11am – TCNH

- F **19** Cool Creek Concert – Zanna-Doo! – 7pm – CCP
- Sa **20** Enclosure Tour – 11am – TCNH
- Su **21** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP
b. Enclosure Tour – 2pm – TCNH
- M **22** Spring Exhibit Opens – 10am – CCNC
- w **24** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP
b. Campfire – 7pm – CCP
- Th **25** 3 Sisters Kids Garden Club – 10:30am – TCNH
- F **26** Cool Creek Concert – Cook and Belle – 7pm – CCP
- Sa **27** a. Morse Park Summer Triathlon – 8am – MPB
b. Kid's Day Fishing Tournament – 8:30am – WRCG
c. Quillworking Workshop – 10am – TCNH
d. Art in the Park – 10:30am – SKP
e. Enclosure Tour – 11am – TCNH
- Su **28** a. Quillworking Workshop – 1pm – TCNH
b. Enclosure Tour – 2pm – TCNH
- M **29** Summer Nature Program – 10am, 12pm, 2pm – CCNC
- Tu **30** Summer Nature Program – 10am, 12pm, 2pm – CCNC

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Batter Up!

Morse Beach Softball

Dates: Season begins May 4

League Schedule: Monday: Co-ed Upper League and Co-ed Rec. League

Tuesday: Men's Rec. League

Wednesday: Men's Lower League and Men's Rec. League

Thursday: Men's Upper League and Men's Rec. League

Friday: Men's Lower League and Coed Rec. League

Times: Schedules to be provided listing various times of 6:30 pm, 7:30 pm, 8:30 pm, 9:30 pm

Ages: 18 years or older

Cost: \$450 per team

Pre-registration: Required. Now - April 3, 2015

To register, or if you need additional info, contact: Danny Stone, d13stone@gmail.com or 317-430-9502

www.leaguelineup.com/morsebeachsoftballdiamonds

Location: MPB

Note: All Coaches' Meeting – Monday, April 20, 7:00 pm at Osprey Pointe Pavilion, located in the park.

Vintage Vehicle Expo



Enjoy classic vehicles, fun entertainment and exciting giveaways... wheel fun for everyone.



Date: Saturday, August 8

Time: Noon – 3:30 pm

Cost: Free to the public

Location: Cool Creek Park*

**Entrants sign in at Collision Cure in Westfield - 9:00 am - Noon*

If you have a classic vehicle you'd be proud to display at this show, contact 317-7704400 or visit myhamiltoncountyparks.com for registration information.

